

Serial No.: 09/683,417
Attorney Docket No.: F-428

Patent

REMARKS

Claims 7-11, and 14-15, and 17-34 were currently pending in the Application. The Examiner has withdrawn claims 7-11, 14, 15, 17-25 and 28-33 from consideration. Applicant has amended claims 26, 27 and 34 and canceled 7-11, 14, 15, 17-25 and 28-33 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant has added new claims 35-39. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. Applicant submits that no new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 26, 27 and 34-39 will remain pending in the application.

Claim Rejections

In section 3, the Examiner rejected claims 26, 27, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. section 102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0020978A1 to Webb.

In response, Applicant traverses the rejection. However, Applicant has amended claims 26, 27 and 34 without prejudice or disclaimer and solely to expedite prosecution. Accordingly, the rejection is moot. Furthermore, Applicant submits that the cited reference does not teach or fairly suggest at least:

"a keyed start switch for receiving a physical key that is engaged and thereby used to send a decontamination start signal to the decontamination system." Claim 1 (emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are patentable over the cited prior art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 35-39 are patentable over the cited art for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 26-27 and 34-39 are in condition for allowance.

Serial No.: 09/683,417
Attorney Docket No.: F-428

Patent

CONCLUSION OF REMARKS

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

AUTHORIZATION

No fee is believed due with this response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-428.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time that is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-428.

Respectfully submitted,



George M. Macdonald
Reg. No. 39,284
Attorney of Record
Telephone (203) 924-3180

PITNEY BOWES INC.
Intellectual Property and Technology Law Department
35 Waterview Drive, P.O. Box 3000
Shelton, CT 06484-8000